

Sandra Hakala

From: Blythe Robinson
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 9:13 AM
To: Sandra Hakala
Subject: FW: MURSD School Committee Resolution
Attachments: Chapter 70 Resolution Final - MURSD Mar 14 2016.pdf

Please put this on the April 5th agenda for the Board.

Blythe

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From: Maruszczak, Joseph [<mailto:jmaruszczak@mursd.org>]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 1:34 PM
To: Bob Fleming; Ken Picard; Jim Brochu
Cc: Blythe Robinson; DeZutter, Phil; Jango, Tanna; Scally, Dorothy
Subject: MURSD School Committee Resolution

Good afternoon, gentlemen-

I have attached a resolution that the Mendon-Upton Regional School Committee unanimously passed during its meeting of March 14, 2016 (the annual Open Budget Hearing). This resolution calls for the full funding of the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC), a commission established by the Legislature in the FY16 budget that was charged with examining the Foundation Budget (Chapter 70) formula. The FBRC found that the current formula understates costs significantly in two areas: Employee Health Insurance and Special Education.

As you may know, the Governor's Proposed FY17 Budget does not implement any of the FBRC recommendations, even incrementally. In fact, the increase in Chapter 70 funding is 1.6% above FY16 levels. For the MURSD, the increase is \$55,695, a mere 0.46%.

The Regional School Committee approved the resolution at the request of both the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and the Suburban Coalition (www.suburbancoalition.org). Both organizations are suggesting that boards of selectmen throughout the State also pass the resolution for the simple reason of sending a unified message to local legislative representatives. I am respectfully requesting that the Upton Board of Selectmen take up this same resolution at an upcoming meeting. I would be happy to appear and present any background information on the FBRC or answer any questions you may have.

For more insight on the FBRC, here is a link to a presentation that I gave to the School Committee back in December: <https://goo.gl/yhFAz4>